#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

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- 1. The plaintiffs, Kenneth C. Swann and Rebecca Swann, are married individuals who reside in the State of Delaware.
- 2. The defendant, Diamond State Port Corporation, is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, whose agent for service of process is: Diamond State Port Corporation, Robert F. Senseny Building, 1 Hausel Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19801.

#### JURISDICTION

- 3. At all times relevant herein, the defendant, Diamond State Port Corporation. (hereinafter referred to as "Diamond State") operated a business of a marine port within the State of Delaware.
- 4. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1331 and 29 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1161 et.seq. regarding COBRA post-employment health insurance continuation coverage.
- 5. The venue in this matter lies in this district under 28 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1391(b), as all of the defendant's actions occurred in the District of Delaware.

#### **FACTS**

- 6. The plaintiff, Kenneth Swann, was hired by the defendant on November 1, 1975.
- 7. The plaintiff, Kenneth Swann, was injured during the course of his employment on November 6, 2001.
- 8. As a result of the injuries suffered by the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann on or about November 6, 2001 the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann was notified on February 3, 2006, by a letter from the defendant, that his employment was terminated that date, effective December 1, 2001.
- 9. By the letter dated February 3, 2006 notifying the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann of his termination of employment, he was informed that the defendant's representative COBRASERVE would provide him, "in a timely matter" notification of his right for continued medical coverage through COBRA.
- 10. The letter of February 3, 2006 informed the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann that his health insurance terminated as of February 1, 2006.
- 11. At the request of the defendant, Diamond State, Diamond State's COBRA representative, COBRASERVE sent plaintiff, Kenneth Swann notice of his COBRA rights on June 5, 2006.
- 12. COBRASERVE's notice to the plaintiffs of June 5, 2006 represented that plaintiff, Kenneth Swann's date of termination was May 31, 2006, notwithstanding the notice of his termination contained in defendant's letter of February 3, 2006.
- 13. As a direct result of the termination of the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann's employment and his employment benefits, and the failure to provide him timely COBRA notice, the plaintiffs have incurred uninsured medical expenses in excess of \$5,600.

#### COUNT I

# Failure to Provide Notice under COBRA (29 U.S.C. §1161 et.seq.)

- 14. The plaintiffs incorporate herein and makes a part hereof the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 13.
- 15. The plaintiff, Kenneth Swann was a covered employee within the meaning of 29 U.S.C. §1167(2).
- 16. The plaintiff, Kenneth Swann was an individual who was employed by the defendant, and was covered under the Diamond State's Healthcare Plan provided through Delaware Blue Cross and Blue Shield, for which the defendant was the plan administrator, sponsor, and fiduciary.
- 17. The Diamond State's healthcare plan is a "group health plan" within the meaning 29 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1167 and/or a "multi-employer plan" within the meaning of 29 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1002(37)(A)(i).
- 18. The plaintiff, Kenneth Swann's termination was a qualifying event within the meaning of 29 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1163(2).
- 19. The defendant, Diamond State, was required to notify the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann of his right to elect to continue health coverage for an 18 month period following his termination pursuant 29 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1162(2)(a)(i).
- 20. The defendant, Diamond State, was required to notify the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann that he had 60 days from the date of his termination to elect COBRA continuation coverage pursuant to 29 <u>U.S.C.</u> §1165(a)(1)(B).

- 21. The defendant, Diamond State, was required to notify Diamond State's Health Plan administrator, sponsor, and fiduciary of Diamond State's healthcare plan of the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann's termination within 30 days, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1166(a)(2).
- 22. The defendant, Diamond State, acting as the Healthcare Plan administrator, sponsor, and fiduciary of the healthcare plan, was required to notify the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann of his right to elect continuation coverage under COBRA within 14 days of notification from the defendant, On-Site, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §§1166(a)(4)(A) and 1166(c).
- 23. The defendant was required to notify the plaintiff, Kenneth Swann that he had 45 days after the date of the election of continued coverage in which to make the first premium payment pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1162(3).
- 24. The defendant was required to set a premium for COBRA continuation coverage at a rate not exceeding 102% of the applicable premium pursuant to 29 U.S.C. §1162(3)(A).
- The defendant has failed to provide any of the timely notices required by the 25. statutes listed herein.
- The defendant's actions violated the notice requirements of 29 U.S.C. §§1165(1), 26. 1162(3) and 1166(a)(2)
- As a result of the defendant's violations of Federal Law, the plaintiffs and the 27. plaintiffs' family have been without necessary medical coverage and have suffered damages.
- As a further direct and proximate result of the defendant's violation of Federal 28. Law the plaintiffs have suffered great mental pain, suffering and anguish.

**WHEREFORE**, the plaintiff demands judgment against the defendant as follows:

A judgment in a fair and reasonable amount against the defendant and in a. favor of the plaintiffs for any damages suffered by the plaintiffs.

- b. For statutory liquidated damages.
- c. For prejudgment and post-judgment interest.
- d. For any other consequential damages.
- e. For reasonable attorney fees.
- f. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

ABER, GOLDLUST, BAKER & OVER

/s/ Gary W. Aber

GARY W. ABER (DSB #754) 702 King Street, Suite 600 P.O. Box 1675 Wilmington, DE 19899 (302) 472-4900 Attorney for Plaintiff

DATED: June 1, 2007

js 44

(REV. 07/89)

### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papaers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS		
Kenneth C. Swann, and Rebecca Swann				OF FIRST LISTED DEFEND	
<b>b</b> ) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF New Castle (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ON NATION CASES, USE THE LVED	
(C) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER) Gary W. Aber, Esquire, Aber, Goldlust, Baker & Over, 702 King Street, Suite 600, Wilmington, DE 19801			ATTORNEYS (IF KNOW	(N)	
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)  1 U.S. Government  2 U.S. Government Defendant  1 4 Diversity (Indicated Citizenship of Parties in Item III)			(For Diversity Cases Only) (For Diversity Cases Only) (For Diversity Cases Only) (For Diversity Cases Only)  PTF 1	FOR PLAINTIFF AND THE PLAINTIF	NO ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT PTF DEF or Principal Place
IV. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE. DO NOT CITE JURISDICTION STATUES UNLESS DIVERSITY)					
28 U.S.C. §1331					
V. NATURE OF SU	-				
CONTRACT	ТО	RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	TETHER STATUES
110 Insurance   120 Marine   130 Marine   130 Marine   130 Miller Act   140 Negotiable Instrument   150 Recovery of Overpayment   & Enforcement of Judgment   151 Medicare Act   152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Lonns (Excl. Veterans)   160 Stockholders Suits   190 Other Centract   195 Centract Product Liability   REAL PROPERTY   210 Land Condemnation   220 Foreclostire   230 Rent Lease & Equipment   240 Toris to Land   245 Tori Product Liability   290 All Other Real Property   230 Instruction   240 Toris to Land   245 Tori Product Liability   230 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY  310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel & Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product Liability 350 Motor Vehicle 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability  CIVIL RIGHTS  U441 Volling EM42 Employment 443 Housing/ Accommodations 444 Welfare 440 CHC Vil Rights	PERSONAL INJURY  362 Personal Injury— Media Majoracitice 365 Personal Injury— Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage 385 Property Damage 570 Property Liability  PRSONER PETITIONS  510 Motions to Vacete Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Dealth Penally 540 Mendamus & Other	□ 610 Agriculture □ 520 Other Food & Drug □ 525 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 □ 630 Liquor Laws □ 640 R.R. & Truck □ 550 Alritine Regs □ 650 Occupational Safety/Health □ 690 Other ■ LABOR □ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act □ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations □ 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act □ 740 Relitway Labor Act □ 790 Other Labor Litigation □ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 429 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark □ 861 HiA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS □ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS — Third Party 26 USC 7609	422 State Reapportiengent   410 Antitrust   430 Entitrust   430 Entitrust   430 Entitrust   430 Entitrust   430 Entitrust   440 Deportation   440 Deportation   470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations   810 Selective Service   850 Securilles/Commodities/ Exchange   875 Customer Challenge   12 USC 3410   891 Agricultural Acts   892 Economic Stabilization   893 Environmental Matters   892 Environmental Matters   893 Environmental Matters   895 Environmental Matters   895 Environmental Matters   900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice   950 Constitutionality of State Status
	_	550 Civil Right			☐ Other Statutory Actions
VI. ORIGIN  (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)  Transferred from Transferred from Proceeding  (PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)  Transferred from Transferred from S another district (specify)  Litigation  Appeal to District Transferred from Magistrate Judgment					
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION DEMAND \$ Check YES only if demanded in complaint:  COMPLAINT:□ UNDER F.R.C.P 23  JURY DEMAND: ☑ YES □ NO					
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions)  IF ANY  JUDGE					
DATE June 1, 2007					
UNITED STATES DISTRIC	T COURT				

AO FORM 85 RECEIPT (REV. 9/04)

United States District Court for the District of Delaware

Civil Action No. - 07 350 -

## <u>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</u> OF RECEIPT FOR AO FORM 85

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE	RECEIPT OF COPIES OF AO FORM 85.
6/1/07	gonathan Durandette
(Date forms issued)	(Signature of Party or their Representative)
	Jonathan Durandetta (Printed name of Party or their Representative)
•	(Printed name of Party or their Representative)
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Note: Completed receipt will be filed in the Civil Action